

WO-264
Purnell Hotel
Snow Hill (site)
Private

1894-1895

One of the best known landmarks of Snow Hill was the three-story Purnell Hotel, formerly located on the corner of Washington and Green streets in the hearth of the commercial district. Built within the few years following the August 1893 fire, the hotel occupied the same site as the old Washington House, a late eighteenth or early nineteenth century tavern destroyed in the blaze. The new three-story brick hotel with its rounded front corner and and decorative iron porches became a focal point in the town's social and commercial life. It was designed by architect, Jackson C. Gott of Baltimore. An advertisement for contractors was printed in the Democratic Messenger on August 25, 1894. The ad read,

The undersigned invites sealed proposals for contractors to build a three story and attic brick hotel on the corner of Washington and Green streets in Snow Hill according to plans, specifications and details made by Jackson C. Gott, architect, which can be seen upon application at the Democratic Messenger office. The bids will be opened Tuesday, September, 1894 and contract awarded. The right to reject all bids reserved. Building to be completed Feb. 1st, 1895. Thomas M. Purnell, Snow Hill, Md.

The hotel stood on the prominent downtown corner until the 1960s when it was razed and replaced by a single story pharmacy building.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: Puaron Hotel

MHT Inventory Number: W0-264

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

1) Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture, Commerce

2) Geographic Orientation:

Eastern Shore

3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

1910-1930 Industrial - Urban Dominance

4) Resource Type(s):

1. SITE

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic PURNELL HOTEL

and/or common

2. Location

street & number SW corner of Green and Washington streets ☐ not for publication

city, town Snow Hill ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester County

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Clerk of Court liber

street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio

city, town Snow Hill state MD 21863

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WO-264

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The old Purnell Hotel, torn down during the mid 1960s, stood on the southwest corner of the intersection of North Washington and Green streets in the heart of Snow Hill, Worcester County, Maryland. The principal entrance faced northeast and Washington Street.

Built around 1900, the three-story brick building was a flat roofed structure with uneven facades of five or six bays and a rounded northeast corner. Encircling the first floor was a metal awning supported by iron posts, and the Washington Street elevation included a second floor porch. Lighting the three floors was a combination of two-over-two and six-over-two sash windows fitted with rusticated stone sills and segmental brick jack arches. The principal entrance was located on the northeast side where partially glazed double doors were framed by sidelights and a transom. A secondary entrance north of the main door was marked by a glazed door and transom. Three additional entrances opened off of Green Street. Flanking most of the windows were pairs of louvered shutters, and finishing the top of the parapet wall was a molded metal cornice with end blocks topped by small finials. Narrow brick stove stacks protruded through the flat roof.

8. Significance

Survey No. WO-264

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	1894-1895	Builder/Architect	Architect, Jackson C. Gott
check: Applicable Criteria:	<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D		
and/or			
Applicable Exception:	<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G		
Level of Significance:	<input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local		

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Formerly located in the center of the Snow Hill business district, the old Purnell Hotel was one of the focal points of social and commercial activity for this small Worcester County seat. The three-story brick structure, erected during the rebuilding of the town after the 1893 fire, presented six-bay elevations on Washington and Green streets. Similar to many surviving commercial buildings was the metal cornice that trimmed the top of the parapet wall. Unusual to the structure was the rounded front corner and the two-story iron porch that marked the Washington Street side. After the building was torn down in the mid 1960s a single-story, flat-roofed drugstore was erected in its place.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WO-264

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Worcester County date 8/26/88

street & number Worcester County Courthouse telephone 632-1194

city or town Snow Hill state MD 21863

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

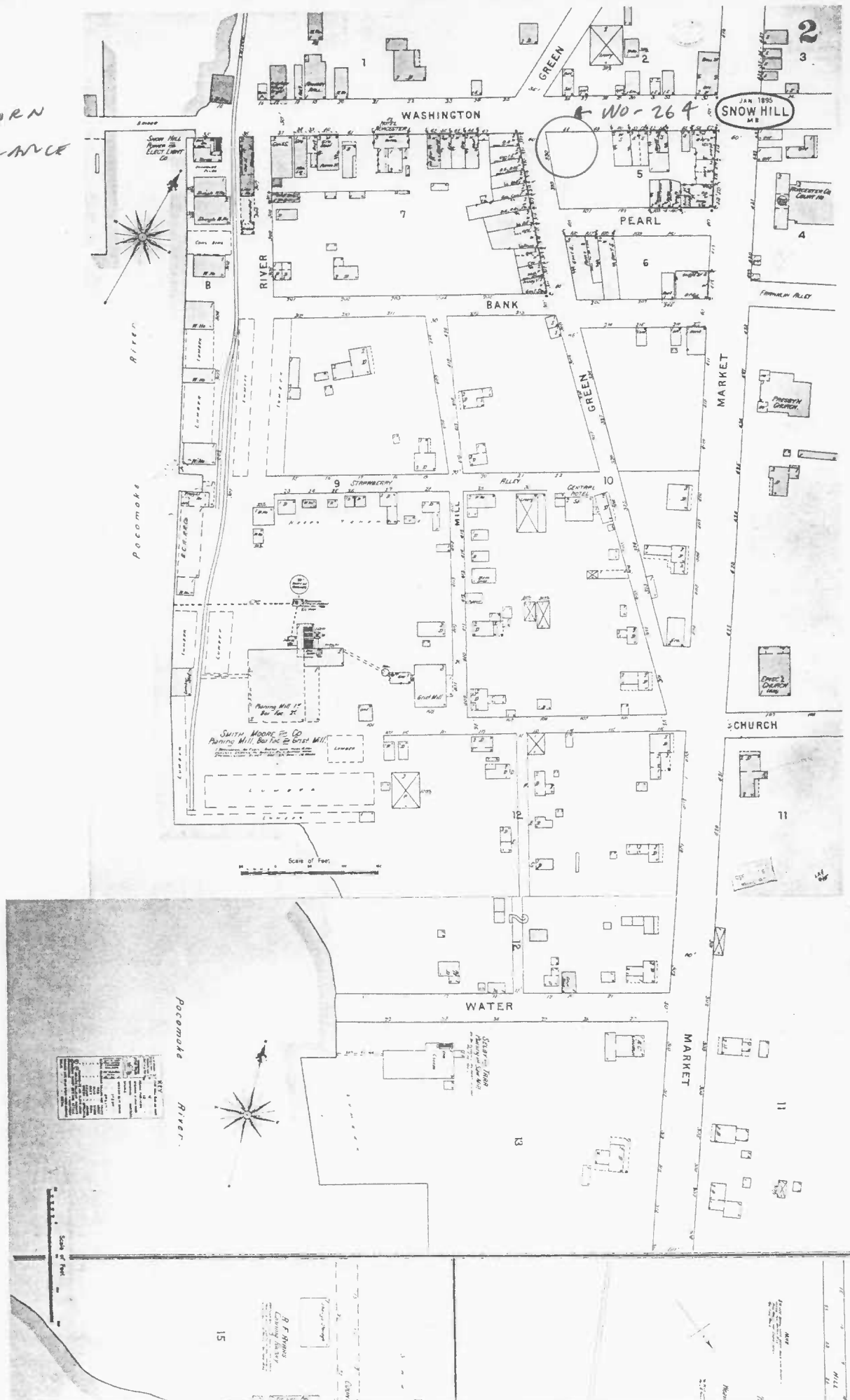
return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

Democratic Messenger, August 25, 1894

Proposals for Building Brick Hotel in Snow Hill, Md.

The undersigned invites sealed proposals for contractors to build a three story and attic brick hotel on corner of Washington and Green streets in Snow Hill according to plans, specifications and details made by Jackson C. Gott, architect, which can be seen upon application at the Democratic Messenger office. The bids will be opened Tuesday, Sept...., 1894 and contract awarded. The right to reject all bids reserved. Building to be completed Feb. 1st, 1895. Thomas M. Purnell, Snow Hill, Md.

1895 Sanborn
 Water Insurance
 Map



WO-264
OLD PURNELL HOTEL
Snow Hill, MD Quadrangle, 1966

WO-264

